

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording apparatus for recording on a recording material by recording means, said recording apparatus comprising:

5 a carriage for carrying the recording means moving in a direction crossing a recording material transporting direction;

a guide shaft for guiding a movement of said carriage; and

10 a guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism for changing a position in height of said guide shaft at three or more stages without changing a position of said guide shaft in the recording material transporting direction.

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2. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position of said guide shaft in the recording material transporting direction is positioned by a site of a chassis of an apparatus  
20 main body.

3. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism includes a cam provided on said guide shaft  
25 and a cam abutment portion arranged in a vicinity of said guide shaft for regulating the position in height of said guide shaft by abutting against said

cam, and lifts and lowers said guide shaft by rotating said cam.

4. A recording apparatus according to claim 3,  
5 wherein said cam is arranged on each of opposed ends of said guide shaft and said cam abutment portion is arranged in a vicinity of each of the opposed ends of said guide shaft.

10 5. A recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism includes a regulating portion for regulating a lowest position in height by abutting against said guide shaft, and wherein when said guide  
15 shaft is at the lowest position in height, said cam is not brought into contact with said cam abutment portion.

20 6. A recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism controls the position in height of said guide shaft by controlling a rotation position of said cam.

25 7. A recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a transport roller for transporting the recording material is supported by the chassis of the

apparatus main body.

8. A recording apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said guide shaft lifting and lowering  
5 mechanism controls the position in height of said  
guide shaft according to information on the recording  
material in recording data.

9. A recording apparatus for recording on a  
10 recording material by recording means, said recording  
apparatus comprising:

a carriage for carrying the recording means and  
moving in a direction crossing a recording material  
transporting direction;

15 a guide shaft for guiding a movement of the  
carriage; and

a guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism  
for changing a position in height of said guide shaft  
at three or more stages,

20 wherein said carriage regulates a state of said  
guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism to thereby  
regulate the position in height of said guide shaft.

10. A recording apparatus according to claim 9,  
25 wherein the position in height of said guide shaft  
regulated by said carriage is not a lowest position  
and is not a highest position of said guide shaft.

11. A recording apparatus according to claim 9,  
wherein the guide shaft lifting and lowering  
mechanism changes the position in height of said  
guide shaft without changing the position of the  
5 guide shaft in the recording material transporting  
direction.

12. A recording apparatus for recording on a  
recording material by recording means, said recording  
10 apparatus comprising:

a carriage for carrying the recording means and  
moving in a direction crossing a recording material  
transporting direction;

a guide shaft for guiding a movement of said  
15 carriage;

a gap adjustment member which is adapted to  
regulate a position in height of said guide shaft and  
is capable of adjusting an initial position in height  
of said guide shaft; and

20 a guide shaft lifting and lowering mechanism  
for changing the position in height of said guide  
shaft at three or more stages without changing a  
position of the guide shaft in the recording material  
transporting direction,

25 wherein said guide shaft lifting and lowering  
mechanism controls a variation from the initial  
position in height regulated by said gap adjustment

member to thereby change the position in height of  
said guide shaft.